

AMANDA M. WAY.

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JANUARY 19, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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MR. KIRKPATRICK, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 5898.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5898) granting a pension to Amanda M. Way, having carefully considered the same, respectfully report:

This claimant asks a pension by Congressional legislation on the ground of having served as a volunteer army nurse for a period of six months during the war of the rebellion.

She applied for a pension August 2, 1893, alleging service at Nashville and Murfreesboro, Tenn., also on the steamer *City Belle*, hospital boat on the Mississippi River, and at Mound City, Kans.

Her claim was rejected on the ground of insufficient proof of appointment by proper authority and requisite length of service.

She sets forth in her affidavit that she tendered her services to the late Governor Oliver P. Morton, of Indiana, and was assigned to duty in the hospitals of Tennessee, transportation and subsistence being furnished upon requisition.

James F. Hibberd, M. D., testifies that he was surgeon in charge of hospital corps at Murfreesboro, Tenn., and that he knows of his own knowledge that claimant rendered efficient services under his direction, and that she was appointed to this duty by Governor Morton. He further testifies that this service began in January, 1863.

John W. Botkin, M. D., testifies that he was surgeon in charge of hospital corps on hospital steamer *City Belle* in June and July, 1863, and that claimant rendered efficient service as army nurse under his direction.

John B. Routh, late regimental quartermaster Twenty-sixth Indiana Volunteers, testifies that of his personal knowledge claimant was called upon by the late Governor Morton to look after the sick and wounded on the battlefields. He particularly remembers her valuable services at Vicksburg. He also testifies that she spent most of her time during the war in nursing soldiers.

Hon. Jeff. Fleming, of Mound City, Kans., testifies to claimant's valuable services among the wounded at the battle of Mine Creek, Kansas, and in the hospital at Mound City, Kans., in October, 1864.

Robert Fleming, esq., testifies to the same services and particularly mentions her work among the sick and wounded at Mound City, Kans.

While it is true that no record of her services appears, and doubtless her appointment was somewhat informal, yet the fact that she performed the services of an army nurse for a period of six months and more is clearly established, and in equity places the Government under obligations to recognize the same.

Claimant is 68 years of age, poor and needy.

In view of all the facts, your committee recommend the passage of the bill, with an amendment striking out the word "twenty-five," in line 6, and inserting "twelve" in lieu thereof.

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